

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of accidents which took place in the State during the last three years is as under :-

	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
1993-94	197	16167	16364
1994-95	202	15489	15691
1995-96	176	16117	16293

(b) to (d) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents have been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed thereunder. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same. In addition, the Governments of Gujarat have amended the Gujarat Factories Rules, 1963 in the year 1995. These rules provide all the adequate safety measures for prevention of accidents and health and safety of workers. Training programmes and National Safety Day are arranged for industrial workers to create safety awareness. All the fatal accidents are inquired by the Senior Officers of the Directorate of Factories of the State Government of Gujarat and adequate safety measures are suggested for prevention of such accidents. Mock drills and on-site emergency plan, rehearsals etc. are arranged to meet any emergency. The compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents is paid as per the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

[Translation]

On-going Construction Work of Over Bridge

4068. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the on-going construction work of overbridge on Hardoi-Sitapur road in Hardoi city has been abandoned for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of said overbridge;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Railway's portion of work has been substantially completed, State Government is yet to execute work on approaches.

(c) Total Estimated Cost Rs. 4.13 crore Railway's share Rs. 1.92 crore and State Governments share Rs. 2.21 crore Expenditure incurred by Railway so far Rs. 1.09 crore.

(d) Depends upon completion of work on approaches by State Government.

[English]

Telephone Services in Allahabad

4069. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Allahabad district which have been provided with telephone services;

(b) whether a large number of these rural telephones are not in working order;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received in 1996; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the working of telephones particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of villages in Allahabad district with telephone facilities is 877.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 195.

(d) The steps being taken to improve services in rural areas are as follows :—

- (1) Reliable media is being provided to replace overhead media for rendering STD service.
- (2) Annual Maintenance Contract has been signed with manufacturers for providing proper maintenance of MARR systems.
- (3) One Sub-Divisional Engineer is being posted in every Tehsil Head-quarters.
- (4) Routine testing is being done regularly under the direct control of Divisional Engineer (Rural).
- (5) Higher capacity batteries are being provided in the villages of Allahabad district as the systems are affected by heavy power cuts, around 12 hours daily.

[Translation]

Decrease in Facilities

4070. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities for the common passengers are decreasing despite introducing fast and long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether there are a few general coaches attached to fast and superfast trains and there is shortage of reserved coaches and absence of medical and catering facilities in a number of trains all add to the sufferings of common passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to introduce a train for common passengers having all the coaches for only second class ticket holders and make arrangements for general catering services in the trains meant for common passengers;

(d) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Number of coaches, reserved or unreserved, in a train is determined by the limitations of track, traction and terminal facilities. With the progressive switching over from steam to heavier traction like diesel and electric, number of bogies in a train have increased. First-Add boxes are provided with the Guards of all the passenger carrying trains. In superfast, Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains, first-aid boxes with additional contents are also kept in custody of Train Supdts./Pantry Car Manager. Scheme of providing a team of doctor and para-medical staff has also been introduced in a few selected long distance trains. Catering requirements of passengers are met satisfactorily from the static and mobile units.

(c) to (e) In July'95 Time Table, Railways had introduced four pairs of 'Jansewa Express' with exclusive second class sitting accommodation. Due to poor occupancy and public demands, two of these trains had to be provided with sleeper class and upper class accommodation also.

[English]

Deposit of Pension Amount

4071. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund;

(b) the manner in which Railway Pension Fund is invested at present, and the annual income out of such investment;

(c) the recommendations of the Railway Committee on capital restructuring in this respect; and

(d) the action has been taken to complement the recommendation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund for the last three years is

as under :

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Deposit	Withdrawal
1993-94	1540.53	1487.85
1994-95	2070.41	1086.00
1995-96	2170.33	2117.17

(b) Balances of the Fund remain with the Central Government (Reserve Bank of India) and earn interest at the rate applicable for payment of dividend to the General Revenues, which presently is 7 percent.

(c) and (d) Railway Capital Restructuring Committee vide their recommendation No. 37 have opined that in case the pension fund can not be operated as a fund which registers substantial growth from time to time, as is being done elsewhere in the world, there is no point in continuing it as at present. The report of the committee is under examination.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility to Panchayat Headquarters

4072. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of panchayat headquarters connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now;

(b) the amount spent for this purpose during the year 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining panchayat headquarters are likely to be connected with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total of 30,922 Nos. of Gram Panchayats, 19,226 Nos. have been connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now.

(b) The amounts spent are-

During 1995 - Rs. 61.25 Crores

During 1996 - Rs. 24.90 Crores

During 1997 - Rs. 51.10 Crores

(c) Remaining Gram Panchayats are proposed to be connected with telephone facility during, 9th plan period.

[English]

Development of Railway Station

4073. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been